



Farmland Conservation Easement Commission Minutes

Jefferson County Courthouse

311 S Center Ave, Rm 203

Jefferson, WI 53549

Monday, January 11, 2016 @ 12:30 pm

Members: Margaret Burlingham (Chair), Walt Christensen (Vice Chair), Steve Nass (Secretary), Mariah Hadler, and Blane Poulson.

1. Call to Order:

The monthly meeting was called to order by Margaret Burlingham at 12:30 pm. Committee members Margaret Burlingham (Chair), Walt Christensen (Vice Chair), Steve Nass (Secretary), Mariah Hadler, and Blane Poulson were present. Also in attendance were Gerry Kokkonen, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); and Kim Liakopoulos, LWCD.

2. Roll Call (Establish a Quorum):

A quorum was established.

3. Certification of Compliance with the Open Meetings Law:

It was determined that the committee was in compliance with the Open Meetings Law.

4. Approval of the January Agenda:

The January agenda was reviewed by the committee members. No changes were proposed.

5. Approval of the December 14, 2015 Meeting Minutes:

Walt Christensen made a motion to approve the December 14, 2015 meeting minutes as written, Blane Poulson seconded. Motion carried 5/0.

6. Communications:

Walt Christensen; Heart of the City will be showing The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces at the Fort Atkinson Club this evening (1/11/16). Margaret Burlingham; 1/27/16 is Ag Day at the Capitol (Madison). Steve Nass; UW Extension and Land Use for Education will be offering a workshop 1/27/16 at UW Whitewater.

Mariah Hadler made a motion for the Farmland Commission to cover costs related to both Ag Day at the Capitol and UWEX/Land Use at UW Whitewater for any Farmland Commission attendees, Steve Nass seconded. Motion carried 5/0.

7. Public Comment:

There were no comments at this time.

8. Discussion on Rodell Lea's Easement Compliance:

Margaret Burlingham has been in contact with Rodell Lea. Rodell Lea contracted a builder to move his building; it will only take a day, but will have to wait until the weather is favorable. The commission is satisfied that the plan is moving forward.

9. Discussion and Possible Action on Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement (PACE) Applications:

Margaret Burlingham has been in contact with Senator Tammy Baldwin's Ag resource agent in regards to communication and document submittal with NRCS. The Senator's office will conduct an investigation and it will take 30 - 45 days to review. Blane Poulson recommended keeping in contact with Tammy Baldwin's office as much as possible.

a. Greg Wilke, Town of Waterloo

Margaret Burlingham found that NRCS has been unable to find the paperwork authorizing NRCS to pay Jefferson County for this easement. Greg Wilke has been in contact with stakeholders involved with the closing of this easement. Gerry Kokkonen informed the commission that Greg Wilke has done everything that has been asked of him by NRCS and the county although not necessarily within his deadline.

b. Cliff Haberman, Town of Milford

Gerry Kokkonen is working with Cliff Haberman in regard to the environmental concerns - see attached. The underground tank mentioned, per Cliff Haberman, was removed over 20 years ago and apparently not on the State Registry of removed tanks. Blane Poulson recommended the commission have Blair Ward, Jefferson County Corporation Counsel, draft an affidavit for the landowner to sign stating the tank is no long on the property. Rob Klotz issued a letter to NRCS stating the remaining materials in the assessment are not hazardous, but salvage or stored equipment.

10. Discussion and Possible Action on Greg Wilke's Re-Appraisal:

Mariah Hadler made a motion to order a re-appraisal of Greg Wilke's land, if needed, for \$1250, Steve Nass seconded. Motion carried 5/0.

11. Discussion and Possible Action on Cliff Haberman's Re-Appraisal:

Mariah Hadler made a motion to order a re-appraisal of Cliff Haberman's land, if needed, for \$1250, Blane Poulson seconded. Motion carried 5/0.

12. Discussion on Jefferson County Land & Water Conservation Report on Baseline Documentation for Easements:

Gerry Kokkonen sent Cliff Haberman's updated baseline documents to NRCS. Gerry Kokkonen has started the baseline documents for the Burlingham donated easement.

13. Discussion and Possible Action on Planning 2016 Goals, Events, and Community Outreach:

Walt Christensen recommended the Farmland Commission look to Economic Development for support to make farmland in Jefferson County a priority which will keep Ag Business in Jefferson County.

Margaret Burlingham will work with Senator Tammy Baldwin's office to see what we can do to streamline this program with NRCS.

Keep farming in the news. Pictures of Jefferson County land and the changes that have happened in the last 100 years. 4th Grade Farm Tour. Close at least one easement per year.

14. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:

Items # 9 - # 13

15. Next Scheduled Meeting:

February 8, 2016@ 12:30 pm in Room 203.

16. Adjournment:

Steve Nass made a motion to adjourn at 1:45 pm, Walt Christensen seconded. Motion carried 5/0.